Appendix I.

[*Vide* answer to question No. 727 asked by Mr. G. Ranganatha Mudaliyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 5th February 1936, page 548 supra.]

Resolution of the Board of Revenue, No. Mis. 78, dated 9th January 1936.

Read—the following:—

Letter from M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur M. V. Vellodi Avargal, B.A., Collector of Tanjore, dated 23rd December 1935, No. Rc. A. 2, 16837/35.

[Cyclone—November 1935—Tanjore district—Detailed report—Submitted. *Reference.*—(i) Board's Reference No. M. 7760/35-1, dated 20th November 1935, and (ii) Board's Reference No. M. 7760/35-3, dated 27th November 1935.]

I submit herewith my detailed report on the damage done by cyclone on the 14th and 15th November 1935.

2. *The time and duration of the cyclone and the area affected by it.*—The cyclone began at about 6 p.m. on 14th November 1935. High wind accompanied by heavy rain started by 9 p.m. and continued till about noon the next day. Tiruturaipundi taluk and portions of all other taluks except Tanjore, Papanasam and Kumbakonam were affected, Vedaranniyam union and some villages around it in Tiruturaipundi taluk being the worst affected. In Vedaranniyam which is on the sea coast, there was a rainfall of about 9 inches on the 14th, and the sea rose up by about 3 feet and came as far as the railway line at about 1 a.m. on 15th November 1935 and receded only at 9 a.m. that day. The sea made inroads into the villages of Sathanangudi and Porayar in Mayavaram taluk also and inundated the adjoining fields.

3. *The total number of lives lost and of families that have been rendered homeless.*—The total number of lives lost is only seventeen—ten in Tiruturaipundi, six in Pattukkottai and one in Negapatam taluks. The one case in Negapatam taluk was of a child three years old, in Tiruvalur town, as a result of the collapse of a mud house. Of the six who died in the Pattukkottai taluk, three were fishermen who had gone out to the sea to fish. Their bodies were washed ashore on the 15th November in the limits of Eripurakarai village. Five thousand and fifty houses in Tiruturaipundi taluk, 2,975 in Pattukkottai, 377 in Negapatam, 142 in Mannargudi and 35 in Arantangi taluks were damaged. Most of the houses were only thatched and they were owned by poor Adi-Dravidas, fishermen and cultivating tenants, who were rendered thereby temporarily homeless.

4. *Extent of damage done—(a) To Government property (other than irrigation works).*—The damage done to Government property was neither extensive nor serious. Eight cattle-pounds, three in Tiruturaipundi, two in Arantangi, one in each of the taluks of Pattukkottai, Mannargudi and Negapatam were damaged. Besides the three pounds

in Tiruturaipundi, the taluk office building, the Deputy Tahsildar's office, Vedaranniyam, and the forest rest-house and out-houses in Point Calimere were also damaged, and the approximate cost of repairs to all the buildings including the cattle-pound has been estimated to Rs. 700. In Arantangi taluk, besides the two pounds, the compound wall of the taluk office and a portion of the roof of the sub-jail kitchen were also damaged, and the total cost of repairs is about Rs. 140. The taluk office buildings at Pattukkottai also suffered damage, and the cost of repairs to them and to the cattle-pound is estimated at Rs. 150. Ten thousand maunds of salt stored in the platforms in the Salt Factories at Adirampatnam and Maravakkadu are reported to have been either washed away or rendered unfit for use, as the sheds were blown off by the winds. The loss to Government by way of duty is estimated to be nearly Rs. 75,000. The cost of repairs to the pound in Mannargudi taluk will be about Rs. 150 and to that in Negapatam taluk about Rs. 100. The northern pillar showing the Port limits of Tranquebar also collapsed as a result of the erosion caused by the sea water. No appreciable damage was caused to the minor irrigation works, except to three eris (tanks) in Pattukkottai taluk the bunds of which have been washed down on account of the rains. There were no breaches. The probable cost of the earthwork that has to be done to the three eris is estimated at Rs. 500.

(*b*) *Damage to crops and fields.*—In Pattukkottai taluk, paddy crops on an extent of about 7,000 acres are reported to have suffered, and the loss by way of diminution in yield is estimated at one kalam per mah or three kalams per acre on an average. The total estimated money value of the reduction in yield is estimated by the Tahsildar as Rs. 21,000. About 1,700 acres of land suffered by inundation; but the Tahsildar reports that the crops have improved in almost all the cases, and that it is not likely that anything more than 500 acres will ultimately come up for remission.

Standing crops in the Talanayar group of villages in Tiruturaipundi taluk are reported to have been affected and the remission of revenue anticipated is about Rs. 3,500.

In Negapatam taluk it is reported that kar crop (paddy) which was ready for harvest was blown down and had to remain under water for some time. Almost the whole of the crop has been harvested, and there must have been some reduction in the yield. The samba crops in Karapidagai North and South villages where the drainage facilities were already defective have been affected. The Tahsildar estimates the remission of revenue at Rs. 3,000 in these two villages.

As regards the damage caused by submersion to the lands in the villages of Sathangudi and Porayar in Mayavaram taluk, the Deputy Tahsildar, Tranquebar, states that it was too soon to say whether the fields would eventually come up for remission. He, however, estimates the amount of remission at Rs. 614. In Shiyali taluk also paddy crops on an extent of about 200 acres in Perunthottam village were reported

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to have been damaged as a result of the flow of sea water into the fields, but I have not heard anything since from the Revenue Divisional Officer, Mayavaram, regarding the anticipated remission of revenue in Mayavaram and Shiyali taluks.

In Mannargudi taluk, remission of water-cess to an extent of Rs. 115 is anticipated as a result of the affection of betel vines by the cyclone and the consequent damage to the betel leaves in Sekarai village.

In other areas crops have not been damaged. Fortunately, the cyclone came at a time when the first crop paddy (kuruvai) had been harvested, and the second crop (Samba) paddy had not begun to be in ears.

Trees.—Reports received show that about 52,000 trees consisting of cocoa, mango and other trees in Tiruturaipundi taluk and 100,600 cocoa trees in Pattukkottai taluk had fallen down. In other taluks also trees were uprooted here and there, but the number blown down is reported to be not appreciable.

(c) *Damage to other private property including houses and live-stock.*—As stated in paragraph 3 above, the number of houses damaged are—

Tiruturaipundi taluk	5,050
Pattukottai taluk	2,975
Negapatam taluk	377
Mannargudi taluk	142
Arantangi taluk	35

About 800 cattle in Pattukkottai taluk, 230 in Tiruturaipundi taluk and 2 in Kumbakonam taluk were lost.

(d) *Damage to communications.*—Telegraph and telephone communications from and to Tiruturaipundi were held up for about a day. Railway communications between Tiruturaipundi and Arantangi and between Tiruturaipundi and Vedaranniyam were also dislocated for a day. There was a breach of the railway line between Negapatam and Nagore also.

5. *The measures to be taken for the relief of the distress and the probable cost to Government.*—The houses of the poor people to the east of the railway line in Vedaranniyam were submerged under water and the people who were rendered homeless were mostly Adi-Dravidas. They were housed in various madams, water pandals, etc., in Vedaranniyam town. The Pasumatam Swamiar and the trustee of the temple at Vedaranniyam arranged to feed them on the 15th November 1935. It is reported that the houses affected were mostly thatched ones, and that the owners took the necessary steps to rebuild them. In Pattukottai taluk also, the owners of the damaged houses have since renewed them in almost all the cases. The owners of six houses who are Adi-Dravidas are reported to be really in need of financial help and the cost is estimated at Rs. 5 × Rs. 6 or Rs. 30. Steps are being taken to afford this

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relief. In Negapatam taluk the owners of about 180 houses are reported to be in need of help. The Municipal Council, Negapatam, has provided a sum of Rs. 500 for the relief of the persons living within the municipal limits. The Sub-Collector, Negapatam, reports that he will arrange to help the rebuilding of the houses in other places. In Mannargudi taluk the house owners have executed the necessary repairs. The damage to houses is not such as would require any general relief. Advances to cultivators will be given wherever necessary under the Agriculturists Loans Act.

It is too soon now to say definitely about the extent of remission of revenue that may have to be granted. No appreciable damage was done by the cyclone to paddy or other crops and no special remission is called for. Remission under ordinary rules (Board's Standing Order No. 13) will be granted wherever necessary.

A large number of petitions are being received from toddy renters in Tiruturaipundi and Pattukkottai taluks for remission of toddy kist and tree-tax as a result of the coconut trees having been uprooted, and of diminution in the yield of toddy due to cyclone. The Assistant Inspector of Excise, Pattukkottai, is attending to the matter of affording relief by substitute marking of trees for tapping. In cases in which it is not possible to mark substitute trees, the question of granting partial remission of tree-tax and shop rental will be taken up.

6. At first sight it may perhaps appear curious that I am not recommending Government relief towards the amelioration of the apparent distress caused to the owners of over 8,500 houses. The accounts received by me show that in every case the house damaged consisted of mud walls and thatched roof. It is a common feature in these parts for many such houses to collapse during the rainy season and if a census were taken of the annual loss of such houses throughout the whole district as has been done this year, the number would not be very much less than those reported now. The roofs of these huts were blown over, but in Tiruturaipundi Union where I got stuck up after the cyclone, I noticed that the very same materials were used and the expense that the owners were put to consisted only of some string and some new thatch, the old thatch being dried and mostly used again. This must have occurred in almost all cases where damage was caused.

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